

## *Pai 'Ohana*

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November 22, 1999

Assistant Secretary John Berry  
c/o Document Management Unit  
The Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, NW Mailstop-7229  
Washington, DC 20240  
Fax: (202) 219-1790

Re: CONSULTATIONS WITH NATIVE HAWAIIANS AND FEDERAL OFFICIALS ON  
RECONCILIATION PROCESS

Dear Assistant Secretary John Berry:

My name is Mahealani Pai, of the *Pai 'Ohana* (family). The name of our organization, Pa'a Ka 'Ike, literally means to "secure the knowledge". Securing the knowledge means that we have the ultimate respect and reverence for our ancestral knowledge. It is with this knowledge, we continue to pass on to our descendants as was done from generations past, since time immemorial. Deeply rooted, this secures the proper alignment to continue our ancestral knowledge and values necessary for the survival of our people and thus builds a *pono* (correct) foundation. We understand these lessons so that we know who we are today, so that we may overcome those challenges and have a clear vision towards the future. We continue to *kahea* (call) our ancestral guardians for protection and they protect us, they speak to us, and guide us in our *hana* (work) and this makes us *pono*. We exist because of them.

The purpose of our organization is to help perpetuate and provide Hawaiian cultural education to children of Hawaiian descent and to the public. Our organization was created as a result of insurmountable challenges that our family continuously faced with the recent arrival of the U.S. National Park Service and its accompanying laws upon our ancestral homeland. Despite the federal government's attempt to extinguish the personification of the very culture it was seeking to protect, our family chose to rise above and step over this rock wall and move forward by seeking more knowledge of our past so that we may try to make our homeland a better place for our descendants to live.

May I request an audience with you regarding reconciliation and political relationship at the roundtable on Saturday, December 11, 1999, at the Keoni auditorium of the East West Center on the campus of the University of Hawai'i at Manoa, island of O'ahu.

Thank you for consideration.



Mahealani Pai  
President, Pa'a Ka 'Ike

cc: File